

Listing of Claims:

1. – 50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21.

52. – 54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:20, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence VHCLAGISRS (SEQ ID NO:16).

56. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:20.

57. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 51, 55, and 56.

58. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 57.

59. – 62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a polypeptide that is selected from the group consisting of (i) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, and (ii) a polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence VHCLAGISRS (SEQ ID NO:16), is capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), and is encoded by a polynucleotide comprising a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:20, comprising the steps of:

(a) culturing a host cell according to claim 58 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide; and

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(b) isolating the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

64. – 98. (Canceled)